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RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3768  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5009  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 1453  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/16/2017

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [TH](#)

SUBJECT: THAI KING HOSPITALIZED AFTER STROKE; CONDITION  
REPORTEDLY IMPROVING

Classified By: Ambassador Ralph L. Boyce, reason: 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej was hospitalized on October 13 after what the Palace described publicly as inadequate blood flow to his left cerebral cortex, resulting in weakness on the right side of his body. Privately, Arsa Sarasin, the King's Principal Private Secretary, told the Ambassador late on October 13 that the King had suffered a minor stroke.

[1](#)2. (C) The Ambassador spoke again with Arsa Sarasin on October 16. Arsa said the King's condition was improving, but he would need physical therapy for his right side. Arsa noted also that the King, whose enjoyment of jazz is legendary, would not be able to join in a jam session with the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, which will visit Thailand in the middle of November and perform at events in honor of the King's 80th birthday. Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn would represent the King at a mid-November Preservation Hall gala dinner organized in part by the Embassy, Arsa said.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: While the King appears to be recovering from this latest setback, his hospitalization reminds us how tenuous his health is, and how suddenly Thailand could be devastated by his loss.

BOYCE